

11-02-00

Customer No. 000959

Case Docket No. SMQ-039

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EL589740928US

Date of Deposit November 1, 2000

I hereby certify that this transmittal letter and the papers referred to as being enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

Signature

Ilidio P. Cardoso

Please Print Name of Person Signing

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): Robert P. St. Pierre

For: System And Method For A Display Device Using A Priority Messaging Protocol

Enclosed are:

- ☐ This is a request for filing a ☐ continuation ☐ divisional application under 37 CFR 1.53(b), of pending prior application serial no. _____ filed on _____ entitled _____.
- ☒ 1 cover page.
- ☒ 12 pages of specification, 6 pages of claims, 1 pages of abstract.
- ☒ 16 sheets of drawings.
- ☒ A Declaration, Petition and Power of Attorney.
- ☒ An assignment of the invention to SUN MICROSYSTEMS, INC. A recordation form cover sheet (Form PTO 1595) is also enclosed.
- ☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 37 C.F.R. 1.27.
- ☐ Other _____

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	SMALL ENTITY		OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
FOR:	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA	RATE	FEE		RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE	////////////////////		////////	\$	OR	////////	\$ 710
TOTAL CLAIMS	35 - 20	= 15	x 9=	\$	OR	x 18=	\$ 270
INDEP. CLAIMS	3 - 3	= 0	x 40	\$	OR	x 80	\$ 0
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED			+135	\$	OR	+270	\$
* If the difference in Col. 2 is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2.			TOTAL	0	OR	TOTAL	\$980.00

- ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 12-0080 in the amount of \$.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$ \$980.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0080.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees during the pendency of this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0080.
 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

- ☐ Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.
☐ The issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).
☐ Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.

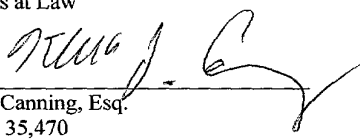
☒ A check in the amount of \$ 40.00 to cover the recording of assignment documents is also enclosed.

☒ Address all future communications (May only be completed by applicant, or attorney or agent of record) to Kevin J. Canning, Esq. at **Customer Number: 000959** whose address is:

Lahive & Cockfield, LLP
 28 State Street
 Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Date: November 1, 2000

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP
 Attorneys at Law

By 
 Kevin J. Canning, Esq.
 Reg. No. 35,470
 28 State Street
 Boston, MA 02109
 (617) 227-7400
 Telecopier (617) 742-4214

09704093-410100

United States Application

Entitled: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A DISPLAY DEVICE
USING A PRIORITY MESSAGING PROTOCOL

Inventor: Robert P. St. Pierre

09704093-110100

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A DISPLAY DEVICE
USING A PRIORITY MESSAGING PROTOCOL

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates generally to the display of messages from multiple electronic devices by a network connected display device, and more particularly, to a display device executing a priority messaging protocol.

Background of the Invention

10 Display devices connected to a network are often used to display data to a user that originates from other devices attached to the network. This process works satisfactorily when the display device is dedicated to a single Application/Device. However, problems occur when more than one network device at a time attempts to use the display device.

15 There are currently two main approaches for allowing multiple network devices to share a single display device. In the first approach, the display device partitions its display surface upon which the messages are displayed to the user into separate discrete areas. Each discrete area becomes dedicated to a single device/application. Any
20 network device sending a message to the display device has its display message redirected to the portion of the display surface assigned to that network device. The result of such an approach, is that each display device has less available display surface dedicated to each device. Accordingly, the size of the message being displayed is reduced, sometimes greatly reduced. Another approach allows information to be
25 displayed from a device when received, thereby overwriting information displayed for another device on the display surface. This approach automatically displays an incoming message upon its receipt with no prioritization factored into the display process. The problem caused by this approach is that important messages may get overwritten by less important messages. For example, in an automobile, a display
30 device might display a warning about low fuel levels on its display surface and have the message overwritten by a warning about low windshield washer fluid levels. Since the messages aren't prioritized as they arrive, the resultant display of messages occurs in an inconsistent and haphazard fashion.

Neither of the current approaches described above provides an optimal solution to the problem of multiple networked devices sharing a single display device. Either the messages are inconsistently displayed, or the displayed messages quickly get too small
5 to easily read.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention addresses the display limitations encountered by display devices attempting to display messages received from multiple network devices. It
10 enables a display device to efficiently allocate its display surface while receiving messages from multiple network devices. The present invention allows a display device to prioritize the messages received from multiple network devices or multiple messages from a single network device, allows the display device to communicate with other network devices over an (IP) based network, and further enables the display device to
15 accept detailed display characteristics for a message as part of the received message.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, a method is practiced whereby a display device executes a priority messaging protocol which allows the display device to efficiently display messages received from multiple network devices.
20 A display device executing the protocol of the present invention first requires a network device to register with the display device. The display device, which runs the server side of the protocol, responds to a registration request from a network device by assigning to the network device a Device ID and sending a registration response message back to the network device. As part of the registration process, the display device creates a priority
25 message queue in the display device's onboard memory for each registering network device. Subsequent messages received from the network device are placed in the message queue allocated to that network device. Each network device queue is assigned a different priority level according to the importance of the network device as determined by the user of the display device. Additionally, each message received by
30 the display device has a message priority level encoded into the message. The message priority level is set by the network device. The messaging protocol executed by the display device includes an algorithm which constantly searches for the highest priority

message queue containing a message, and then selects the message from within that queue which has the highest message priority level for display. The protocol further enables the dequeuing (removal) of a message from a particular device queue, the ability for the display device to provide a network device with a list of all of the

- 5 Message Identification numbers in its assigned queue, and provides for the unregistering of the network device when the device is done accessing the display device.

In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, the network environment used by the present invention is located within a motor vehicle. The display device
10 receives messages from electronic devices connected to the motor vehicle network, such as a CD player, stereo, global positioning satellite receiver, etc. The protocol functions exactly the same for a motor vehicle network as it does for networks which are not located in a motor vehicle. Those skilled in the art will recognize that the electronic devices listed above as part of the motor vehicle network are listed for illustration
15 purposes and are not a definitive list of the electronic devices that may be attached to the motor vehicle network.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating components employed in an illustrative
20 embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a block diagram of an example configuration for the illustrative embodiment of the present invention in a networked environment;

Figure 3 is a block diagram of the message header packet utilized in the illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

25 Figure 4A is a flow chart depicting steps performed by the illustrative embodiment of the present invention during a device registration request message;

Figure 4B is a block diagram that shows the format utilized in the body of the message packet during a network device registration request and display device response to a registration request;

30 Figure 5A is a flow chart depicting the steps followed by the illustrative embodiment of the present invention during a Queue Message request;

Figure 5B is a block diagram that shows the format utilized in the body of the message packet during a Queue Message request and display device response to a Queue Message request;

5 Figure 5C is a flow chart of the decision sequence of the scheduling algorithm employed in the illustrative embodiment;

Figure 6A is a flow chart depicting steps followed by the illustrative embodiment of the present invention during a device's Dequeue Message request;

10 Figure 6B is a block diagram that shows the format utilized in the body of the message packet during a Dequeue Message request and display device response to a Dequeue Message request;

Figure 7A is a flow chart depicting the steps followed by the illustrative embodiment of the present invention during a List Message request message;

15 Figure 7B is a block diagram that shows the format utilized in the body of the message packet during a List Message request and display device response to a List Message request;

Figure 8A is a flow chart depicting the steps followed by the illustrative embodiment of the present invention during a Status request;

20 Figure 8B is a block diagram that shows the format utilized in the body of the message packet during a Status request and display device response to a status request message;

Figure 9A is a flow chart depicting the steps followed by the illustrative embodiment of the present invention during a Unregister request; and

25 Figure 9B is a block diagram that shows the format utilized in the body of the message packet during a Unregister request and display device response to an Unregister request.

Detailed Description Of The Invention

30 The illustrative embodiment of the present invention enables a display device to receive display requests from multiple network devices communicating with the display device over an Internet Protocol (IP) based network. The priority messaging protocol executed by the display device enables a display device to prioritize and display incoming messages from different network devices and to prioritize and display multiple

incoming messages from a single device. The protocol executed by the display device further enables the display device to receive display characteristics encoded as part of a message from a network device. The illustrative embodiment of the present invention allows a display device executing the priority message protocol to process and display multiple message requests without the need to prematurely overwrite the message currently being displayed or to segment the display surface of the display device into smaller pieces.

Figure 1 depicts a display device configured in accordance with the illustrative embodiment of the present invention. The display device 2 contains a display surface 4, and priority message queues 6, 8, 10 and 12. In the embodiment depicted in Figure 1, the display device 2 has created the four priority message queues 6, 8, 10, and 12, to hold incoming messages for four respective registered network devices. Messages received from the registered network devices are placed in the priority message queue allocated to the respective devices.

Figure 2 depicts an example of an environment through which the display device 2 is accessed. The environment includes a network 14 to which a display device 2, a first network device 15, a second network device 16, a third network device 17, and a fourth network device 18 are interfaced. The four network devices 15-18 each have their own priority message queue 6, 8, 10, and 12.

The network messaging protocol follows a basic request-response model with the display device 2 executing the server side of the protocol and the network devices executing the client side of the protocol. A network device makes a request by sending a message to the display device 2 over the network 14, and the display device 2 responds with a response message that is directed back to the network device. Figure 3 depicts a packet header 21 utilized by the protocol. The packet header 21 precedes the body of each message sent in the protocol. The packet header 21 includes a Version field 22 containing a software release version number for the priority messaging protocol. Requests may specify an opcode for a function that the client wishes to perform. To that end, the packet header 21 also contains an opcode field 24 containing an indication of an

opcode. Each of the responses for the different types of requests has a unique operations code ("opcode") that appears in the packet header prior to the body of the response message. Correspondingly for each of the requests, the network device places a unique opcode in the request packet header. The packet header 21 further contains a Length
5 field 26 indicating the total length of the remaining packet, and an Application ID field (Device ID) 28 which is unique to each device on the network and is assigned by the display device 2 when the device registers with the display device (See below).

In the network messaging protocol, the display device provides responses to
10 request messages such as Queue Message requests, Dequeue Message requests, List Messages requests, Status Requests, and Unregister requests. These requests will be described in more detail below.

Prior to displaying any messages from a network device, the display device 2
15 must first register the network device. The display device 2 waits to receive a message containing a packet header 21 with an opcode indicating that the packet following the header is part of a Registration request. Because the network device sending the request has not registered, the Application ID field 28 in the packet header 21 has been set to zero. The registration process is depicted in Figure 4A. A network device 30 sends a
20 Registration request 32 to the display device 2. The registration request includes both a facility code 40 containing the network address of the network device and the device name 44 for the network device which are used to identify and locate the network device. Upon receiving the Registration request, the display device 2 assigns an Application/Device ID 28 to the network device making the request. The display
25 device 2 sends a Registration Response message 36 containing an Acknowledgement 48 back to the network device 30. All further communications from the network device 30 to the display device 2 contains the Application/Device ID 28 within the packet header.

The frame format for the Registration request is depicted in Figure 4B. The body
30 of the Registration request 38 includes a Facility Code field 40, and a Length field 42, which indicates the length of the Name field 44. The Name field 44 holds a name of the network device that is making the registration request. The display device 2 sends a

response message 36 (Figure 4A) back to the network device 30. The registration request response message 36 contains the just assigned Application/Device ID 28 in the Application/Device ID field of the packet header 21. The body of the registration request response message 46 contains the Acknowledgment field 48, which contains the
5 number zero if the device was successfully registered and a non-zero number corresponding to a protocol defined error type in the event there was an error in the registration process.

Once a network device has successfully registered with the display device 2, the
10 display device accepts messages intended for display from the network device. Messages are sent to the display device using a Queue Message request. The sequence of events by which the display device receives a Queue Message request is depicted in Figure 5A. A network device 30 sends a Queue Message request 52 to a display device 2. The Queue Message request 52 includes a priority level for the message 62, a
15 type flag 64, and additional information indicating how the message is to be displayed including a feature flag 66 and delay parameter 68, along with the text 68, 70 and image information 72, 74 parts of the message. The display device 2 places the incoming message in the priority message queue allocated to the sending network device. The message is assigned a unique Message ID number 80 to distinguish it from the other
20 messages waiting in the queue. The display device 2 responds to a Queue Message request with a Queue Message response 56. The Queue Message response 56 includes the Message ID 80 assigned to the message at the time it was placed in the priority message queue of the network device, and an Acknowledgement 79. The display device 2 uses Message ID's to track messages stored in the priority message queues.

25

The details of the Queue Message request frame format are depicted in Figure 5B. The body of the Queue Message request 58 includes a Priority field 60, a Type Flag field 62 which indicates whether the message is a text message, an image message or both a text and image message, and a Feature Flag field 64 which indicates
30 whether the display surface 4 should first be cleared, whether the message should scroll either horizontally or vertically, and whether the message should be persistent, that is, stay in the queue after display. The message body 58 further includes a Delay field 66

indicating how long the message should be displayed and a Text Length field 68 indicating the number of bytes in the text string being sent. A Text field 70 containing the text bytes, an optional Image Length field 72 indicating the number of bytes in an optional optional Image field 74 containing the image bytes in the message. The body
5 of the Queue Message response 78 includes a Message ID field 80, the value of which is assigned by the display device 2 prior to the placing of the message in the priority message queue of the network device.

In an alternate embodiment, the extensible markup language (XML)
10 may be used in the present invention. If XML is used for the priority messaging protocol, the exact structure of the message will be defined within an XML string.

The display device 2 makes use of the information contained in the fields of a Queue Message request after determining which message is to be displayed. The
15 determination of which message to display is reached by use of a scheduling algorithm. The display device's scheduling algorithm is implemented by a code which continuously checks for new messages. The sequence of events taking place in the algorithm is depicted in Figure 5C. The display device will remain in its default display state 77 until
20 such time as a network device registers with the display device (step 79). During the registration process, the creation of a priority message queue for a network device includes the step of assigning a priority level to that network devices queue. The scheduling algorithm looks for the network device with the highest priority level assigned to its queue (step 80). In the event that the priority message queue having the highest priority level also contains messages waiting to be displayed (step 81), the
25 scheduling algorithm searches within that queue for the message to be displayed (step 82). In the event that the display device 2 determines that the priority message queue assigned the highest priority level does not contain any messages waiting to be displayed (step 83), the algorithm searches for the next highest priority level (step 80). The algorithm continues searching until a message queue with messages waiting to be
30 displayed is found (step 82) or there are no of queues left to be searched (step 83). Once the scheduling algorithm has located a message queue with messages waiting to the displayed, the display device 2 retrieves the message from within that queue that

contains the highest priority level (step 82). The message priority level is set by the network device at the time it sends a request to enqueue the message. The message may contain display characteristic information, such as a request to clear the screen, vertically scroll the message, horizontal scroll the message, or have the message be persistent. In the absence of such requested display description information, the display device will display the message according to previously set default parameters. When the message has been displayed for the requisite amount of time, the scheduling algorithm seeks out another message to be displayed. The algorithm runs continually as long as at least one network device is registered with the display device.

10

The illustrative embodiment of the present invention also includes a Dequeue Message request. The Dequeue Message request removes a previously sent message from the priority message queue of the requesting network device. The sequence of steps followed by a display device 2 removing a message from a priority message queue in the illustrated embodiment of the present invention is depicted in Figure 6A. A network device 30 sends a Dequeue Message request 84, which includes both a Device ID 28 identifying the network device, and a Message ID 92 identifying the message the network device wishes to remove from its queue, to the display device 2. The display device 2, upon receiving the Dequeue Message request 84 , attempts to dequeue the message and sends a Dequeue Message response 88 which includes either an Acknowledgment 96 or an error message along with a return Message ID 98 identifying the message that was removed from the queue in the event the operation was successful.

20

Figure 6B depicts the body of the Dequeue Message request 90. The Dequeue Message request 90 includes a Message ID field 92 identifying the particular message which the network device wishes to remove from its queue. The body of the Dequeue Message response 94 includes an Acknowledgment field 96 and a Message ID field 98 indicating the message that was removed from the queue. In the event the message was successfully removed, the Acknowledgment field contains the number 0 and the Message ID contains the Message ID of the removed message. Conversely, if an error removing the message was encountered, the Acknowledgment field contains a non-zero

25

30

number equating to a defined error message and the Message ID field is set to zero indicating no message was removed.

00704093-110100
The illustrative embodiment of the present invention also enables a network
5 device to request a list of all the Message ID's in the priority message queue assigned to that network device. The sequence of events illustrating this List Message request is depicted in Figure 7A. A network device 30 sends a List Message request 102 to a display device 2. The display device 2 uses the Application/Device ID 28 contained in the packet header 21 to check the priority message queue allocated to the network
10 device 30 and retrieves a list of the Message ID's 116 in that priority message queue. The display device 2 sends a List Message response 106 back to the network device 30. The List Message response 106 includes an Acknowledgment/Error indicator 112 and a length parameter 114 indicating the length of the included list of all of the Message ID's 116 in the network device's priority message queue.

15
Figure 7B depicts the frame format used in the body of the List Message request and the body of the corresponding List Message response. The actual body of the List Message request is empty as the header contains both the opcode and the Device ID 28 (i.e. all the information required for the request). The body of the response to the List
20 Message request 110 includes an Acknowledgment field, a Length field 114 indicating the length of the rest of the response, and Message ID fields 116, 120, 122 corresponding to fields for Message ID's one to N.

The illustrative embodiment of the present invention provides a network
25 device 30 with the capability to request the status of a particular message in its priority message queue. Figure 8A depicts the sequence of events by which a network device 30 requests the status of a particular message in its priority message queue. A network device 30 sends a Status request 126 which includes the Message ID 134 for which a status update is requested. The display device 2 uses the Device ID 28 and the Message
30 ID 134 to retrieve the message from the priority message queue allocated to the requesting network device and examines the message's details such as priority level and display characteristics. The display device 2 then sends a Status response 130 which

includes an Acknowledgment/Error indicator 138, the message's priority level 140, type and feature flags 142,144 and a delay parameter 146, all of which mirrors the information in the message stored in the priority message queue.

5 Figure 8B depicts the message body of the Status request 132 which contains a Message ID field 134, as the message header Opcode indicates the message was a status request. The message body of the Status request response 136 includes an Acknowledgment field 138, a Priority field 140 indicating the messages priority, a Type Flag field 142 indicating the type of message, text, image, or both text and image, a
10 Feature Flag field 144 indicating the display features associated with the message, and a Delay field 146 indicating the length and time the message is to be displayed. This information provides a snapshot of how the display device 2 recorded the message in the priority queue.

15 The illustrative embodiment of the present invention also includes an Unregister request which is sent by a network device when it has completed accessing the display device. Figure 9A depicts the steps of the Unregister request. A network device 30 sends an Unregister request 150 to the display device 2. The display device 2 deallocates the priority message queue assigned to the requesting network device 30 and
20 sends an Unregister response 154 containing an Acknowledgment/Error indication 160 back to the network device 30.

 Figure 9B depicts the message body of the Unregister request 156 which is empty, as the message header opcode 24 indicates the message is an Unregister
25 Request 156, and the particular Device ID 28 is also contained in the packet header 21. The body of the Unregister response message 158 consists solely of an Acknowledgment/Error field 160.

 It will thus be seen that the invention efficiently attains the objects made
30 apparent from the preceding description. Since certain changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings be interpreted as

5 without departing from the scope of the present invention.

We Claim:

- 09704093-110100
1. In a computer network a display device apparatus comprising:
a display surface; and
5 a display manager for determining what messages are displayed on the display surface, said display manager receiving messages for display on the display device from multiple network devices, said display manager prioritizing the received messages to determine a sequence in which said received messages are displayed on the display surface.
10
 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said display device and said network devices communicate over an Internet Protocol (IP) based network.
 3. The apparatus of claim 1 comprising:
15 a selected one of said network devices registered with said display device, said display manager registering said display device in a list maintained by said display device, said registration occurring prior to said display device displaying any messages from said network device.
 - 20 4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said display manager registers a plurality of said network devices with said display device.
 5. The apparatus of claim 4 comprising:
a separate priority message queue created on said display device for each
25 network device registered with the display device;
wherein each priority message queue has a priority level assigned to it; and
wherein a display message received by the display device from a given one of the network devices, is placed in a priority message queue that is assigned to said network device.
30
 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the display message placed in said priority message queue contains text.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the display message placed in said priority message queue contains a graphical image.

5 8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the display message placed in said priority message queue message contains text and a graphical image.

9. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising:

10 said display manager assigning a Message Identification number to said display message placed in said priority message queue; and
said display manager assigning a message priority level to said display message as it is placed into said priority message queue, said message priority level being encoded into said display message when received by said display manager and extracted by said display manager.

15

10. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:

20 said display manager selecting a selected priority message queue with a highest priority level, said selected priority message queue containing at least one message;
said display manager selecting a selected display message with a highest message priority level from within said selected priority message queue with a highest priority level; and
said display manager displaying said selected display message with a highest priority level on the display surface of said display device.

25 11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said display manager removes a selected display message in a priority message queue in response to a request from said network device.

30 12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said display manager maintains a list of Message Identification numbers of all of the messages in a priority message queue assigned to a particular network device, said display manager providing said list to said particular network device in response to a request from said particular network device.

13. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said display manager maintains a list of network devices registered with said display device, said display manager removing a selected network device from said list in response to a request from said selected network device.

5 14. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said display manager provides the status of a selected display message in a priority message queue assigned to a network device to said network device in response to a request from said network device.

10 15. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said display manager displays a display message with display characteristics that were encoded within said display message when received by said display device.

16. In a motor vehicle, a display device apparatus interfaced with a network located within said motor vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

15 a display surface mounted on the motor vehicle dashboard; and
a display manager for determining what messages are displayed on the display surface, said display manager receiving messages for display on the display device from multiple network devices connected to said network located within said motor vehicle, said display manager prioritizing the received messages to determine a sequence in
20 which said received messages are displayed on said display surface.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein

said display device and said network devices communicate over an Internet Protocol (IP) based network.

25

18. The apparatus of claim 16 comprising:

a selected one of said network devices registered with said display device, said display manager registering said display device in a list maintained by said display device, said registration occurring prior to said display device displaying any messages
30 from said network device.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said display manager registers a selected one of said network devices, said network device being a global positioning satellite receiver.

20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said display manager registers a selected one of
5 said network devices, said network device being a cellular phone.

21. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said display manager registers a selected one of said network devices, said network device being an automobile stereo.

10 22. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said display manager registers a plurality of said network devices with said display device.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

15 a separate priority message queue created on said display device for each network device registered with the display device;
wherein each priority message queue has a priority level assigned to it; and
wherein a display message received by the display device from a given one of the network devices is placed in a priority message queue that is assigned to said network device.

20

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the display message placed in said priority message queue contains text.

25 25. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the display message placed in said priority message queue contains a graphical image.

26. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the display message placed in said priority message queue message contains text and a graphical image.

27. The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising:

said display manager assigning a Message Identification number to said display message placed in said priority message queue; and

5 said display manager assigning a message priority level to said display message as it is placed into said priority message queue, said message priority level being encoded into said display message when received by said display manager and extracted by said display manager.

10 28. The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising:

said display manager selecting a selected priority message queue with a highest priority level, said selected priority message queue containing at least one message;

said display manager selecting a selected display message with a highest message priority level from within said selected priority message queue with a highest
15 priority level; and

said display manager displaying said selected display message with a highest priority level on the display surface of said display device.

29. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said display manager removes a selected
20 display message in a priority message queue in response to a request from said network device.

30. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said display manager maintains a list of Message Identification numbers of all of the messages in a priority message queue assigned to a
25 particular network device, said display manager providing said list to said particular network device in response to a request from said particular network device.

31. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said display manager maintains a list of network devices registered with said display device, said display manager removing a selected
30 network device from said list in response to a request from said selected network device.

32. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said display manager provides the status of a selected display message in a priority message queue assigned to a network device to said network device in response to a request from said network device.

5 33. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said display manager displays a display message with display characteristics that were encoded within said display message when received by said display device.

10 34. In a motor vehicle, a display device apparatus interfaced with a network located within said motor vehicle, said apparatus comprising:
a display surface; and
a display manager for determining what messages are displayed on the display surface, said display manager receiving messages for display on the display device from multiple network devices connected to said network located within said motor vehicle,
15 said display manager prioritizing the received messages to determine a sequence in which said received messages are displayed on said display surface.

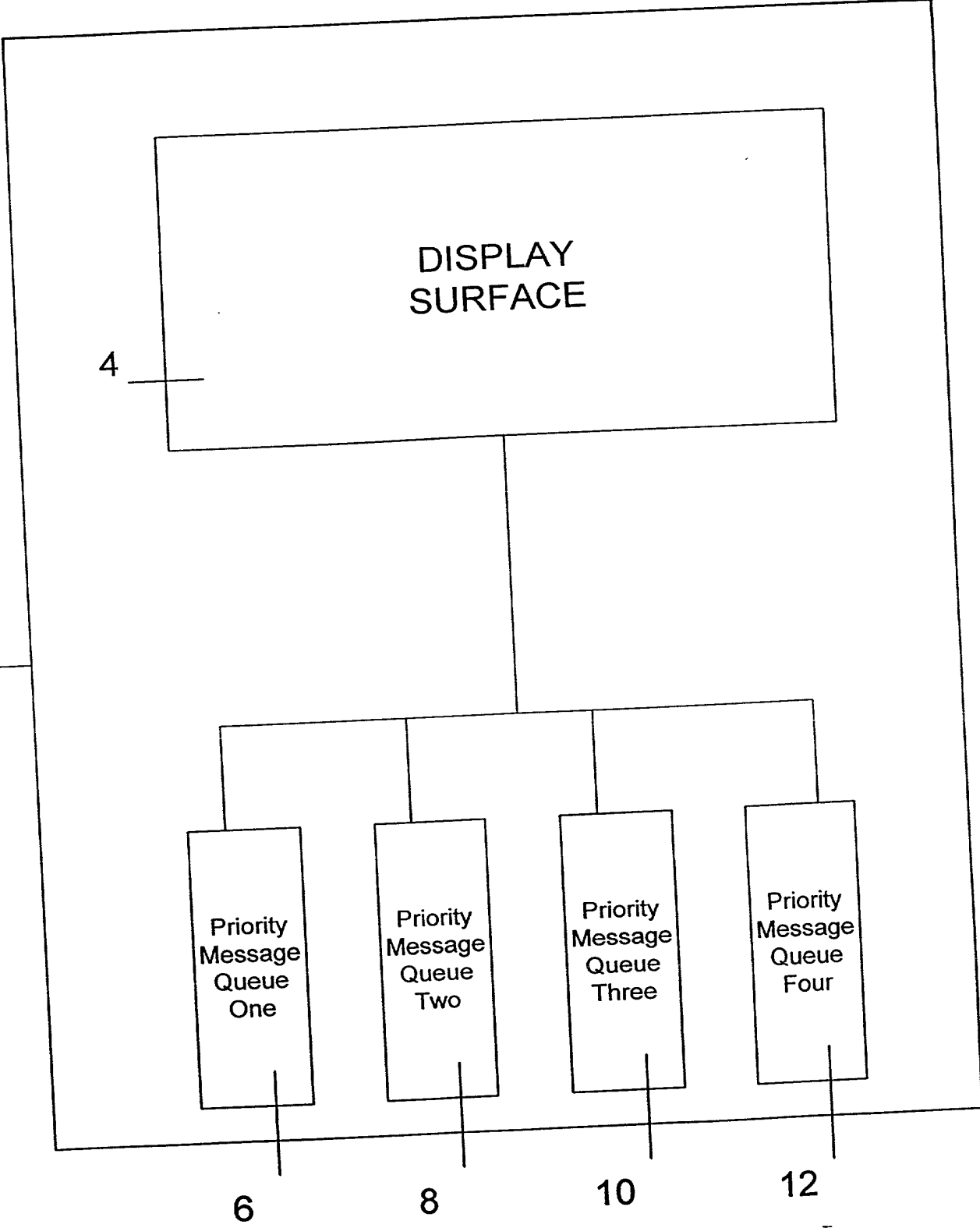
20 35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein
said display device and said network devices communicate over an Internet Protocol (IP) based network.

ABSTRACT

5 A display device executing a network messaging protocol and capable of
receiving display requests from multiple network devices communicating with the
display device over an Internet Protocol (IP) based network is disclosed. The network
priority messaging protocol executed by the display device enables the display device to
efficiently display messages received from multiple network devices. The protocol
enables the display device to prioritize among incoming messages from different
10 network devices and to prioritize among incoming multiple messages from a single
device. The protocol executed by the display device further enables the display device
to receive display characteristics encoded as part of a message from a network device.
The display device executing the network priority messaging protocol is able to process
and display multiple message requests without the need to prematurely overwrite the
15 message currently being displayed or to segment the display surface of the display
device into smaller pieces.

09704093-110100

FIGURE 1



09704093-110100

Figure 2

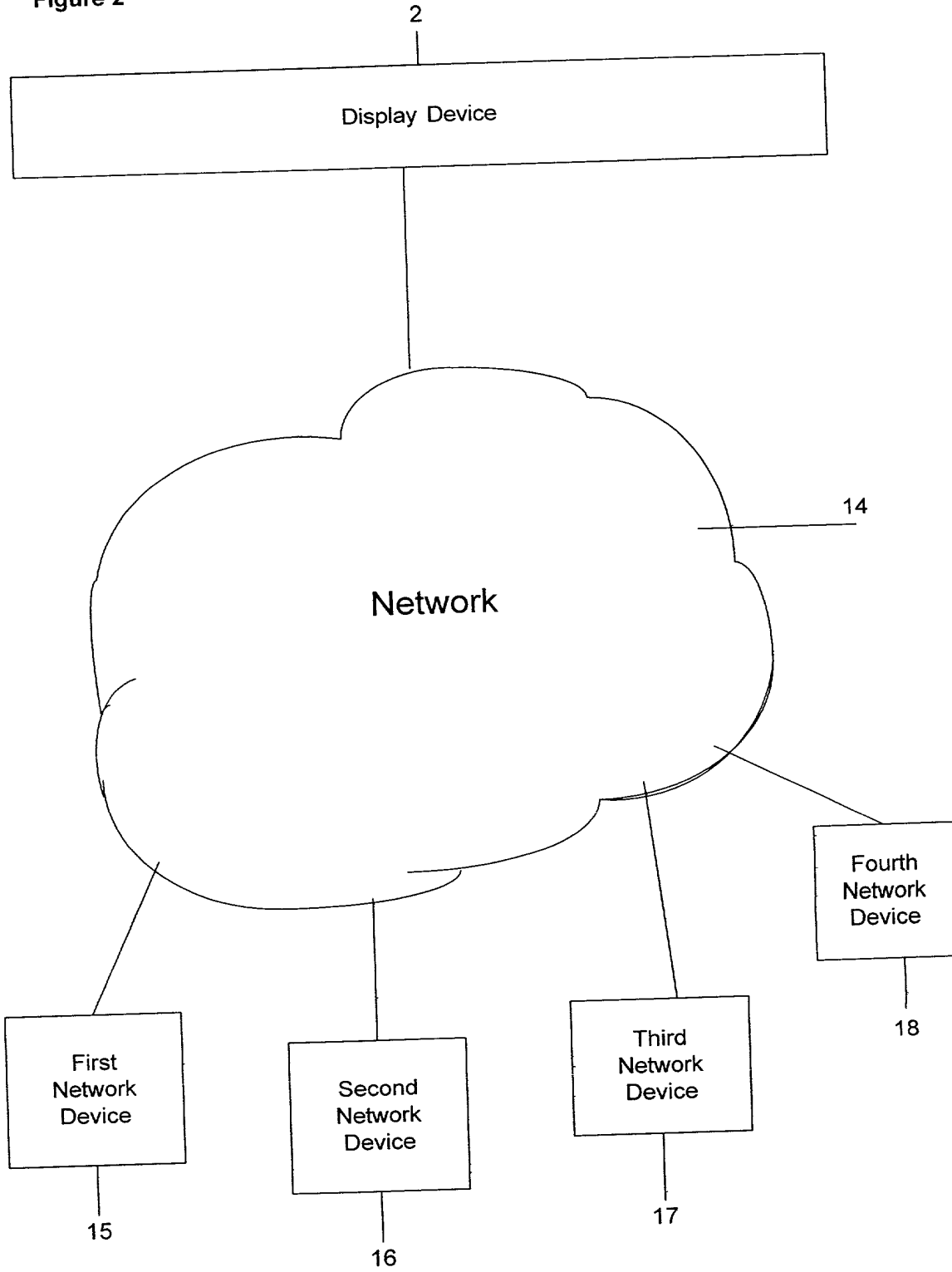
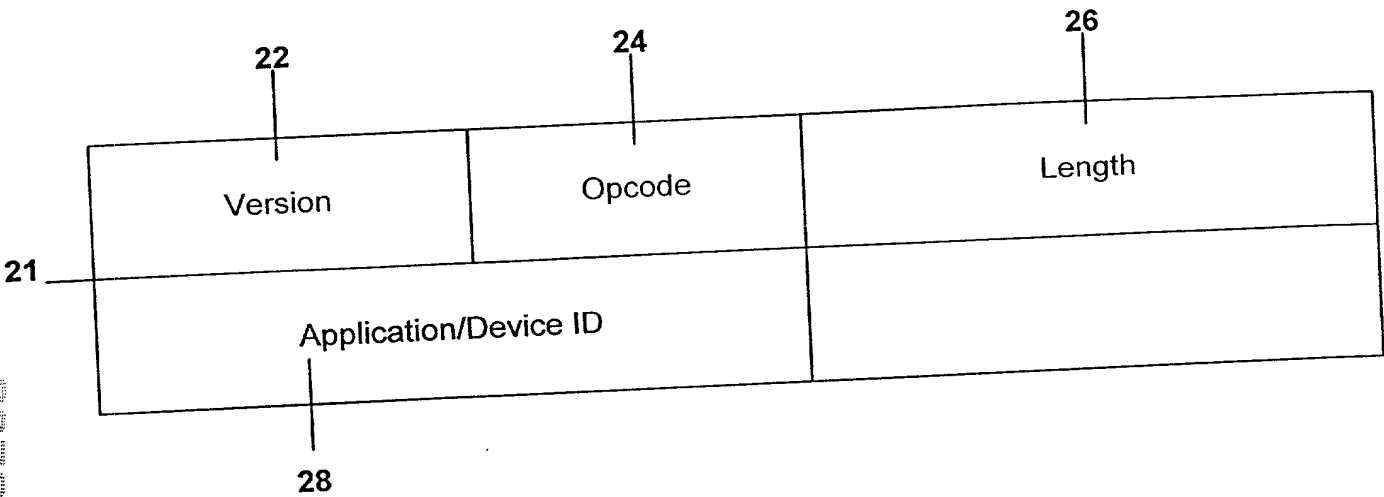
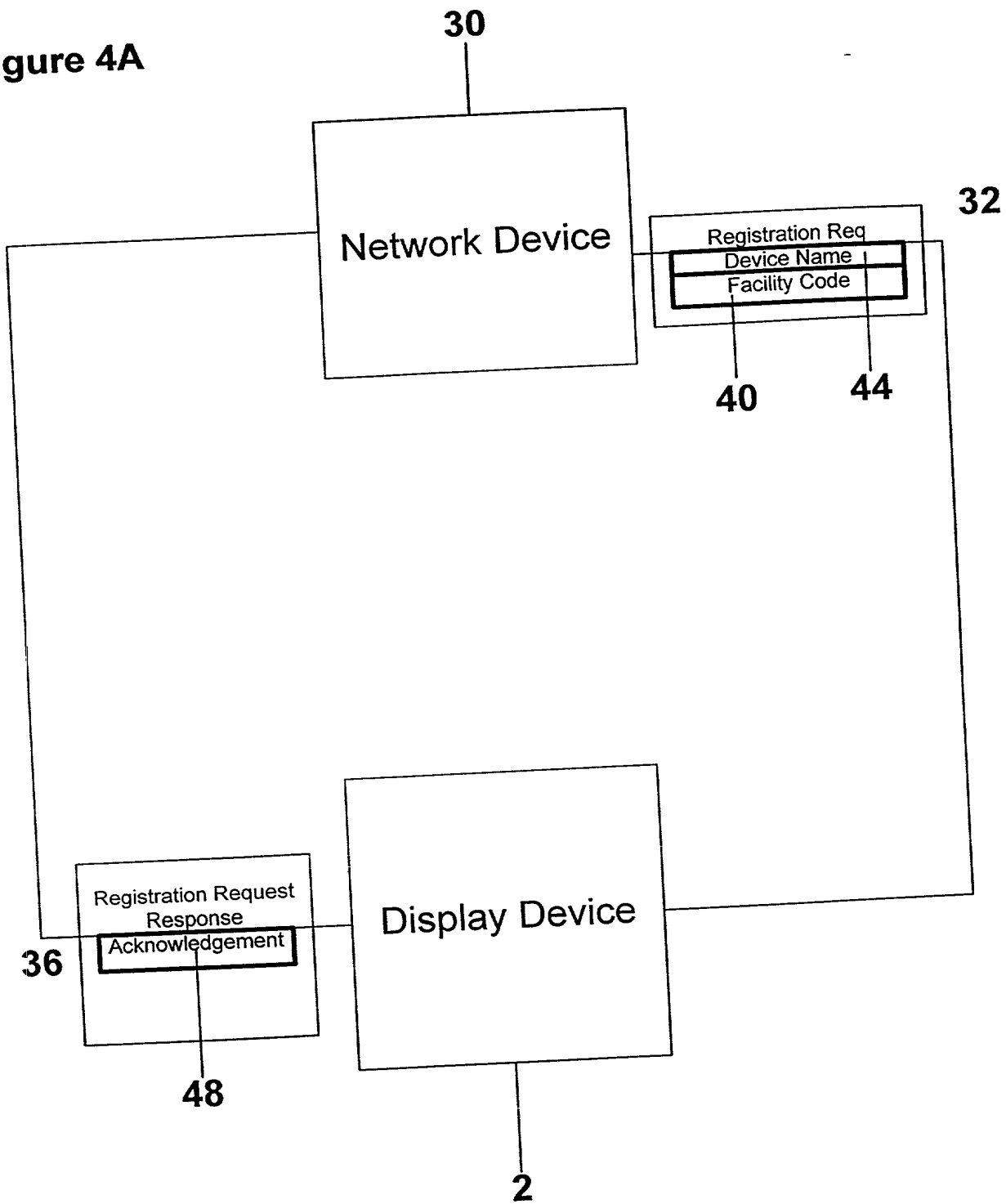


Figure 3



007077" E6040269

Figure 4A



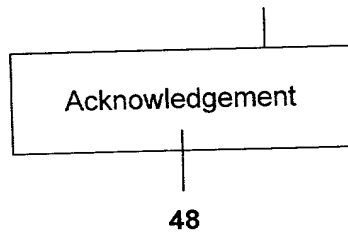
[illegible]

Figure 5A

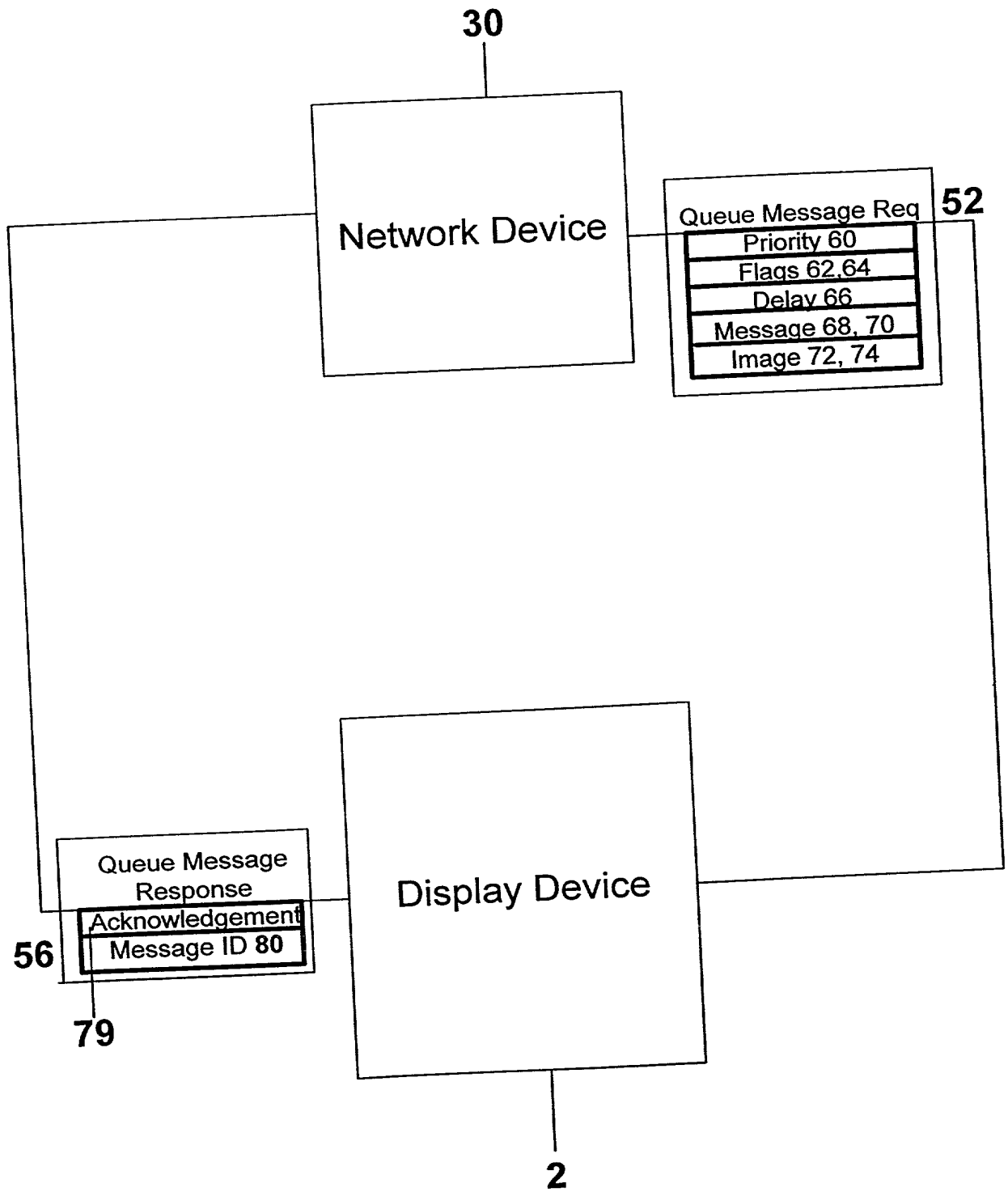


Figure 5B

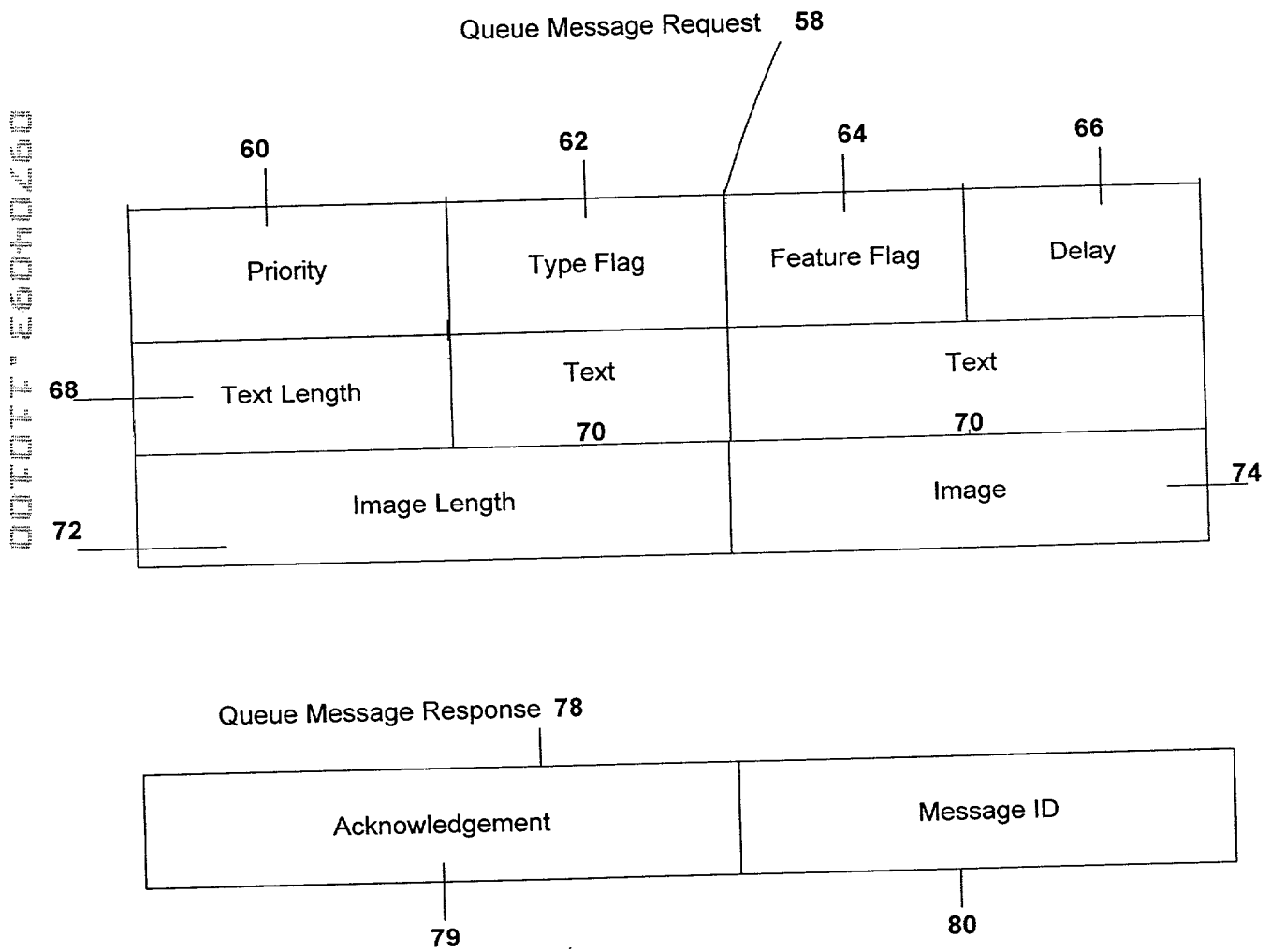
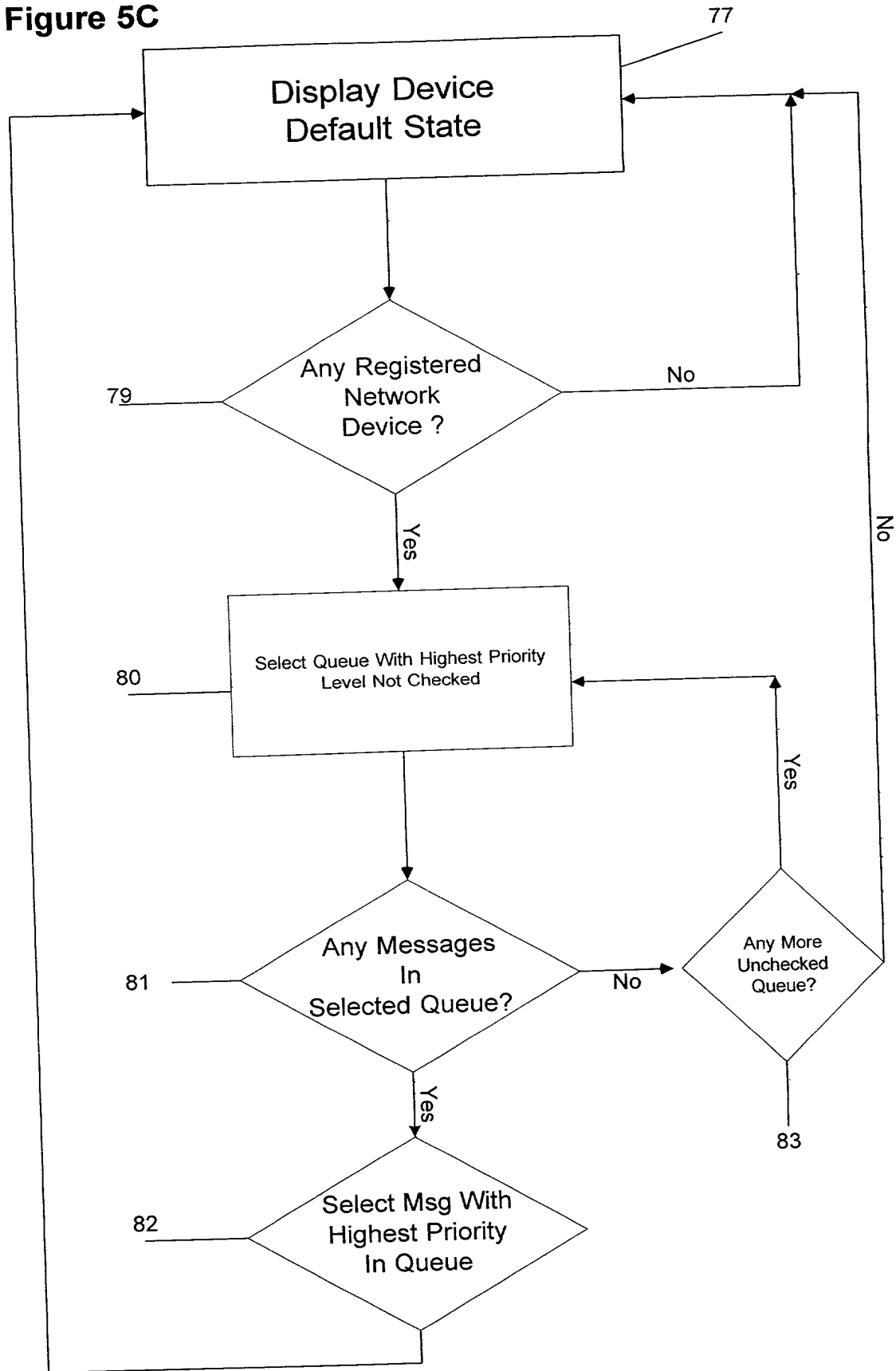


Figure 5C



09704093-110100

Figure 6A

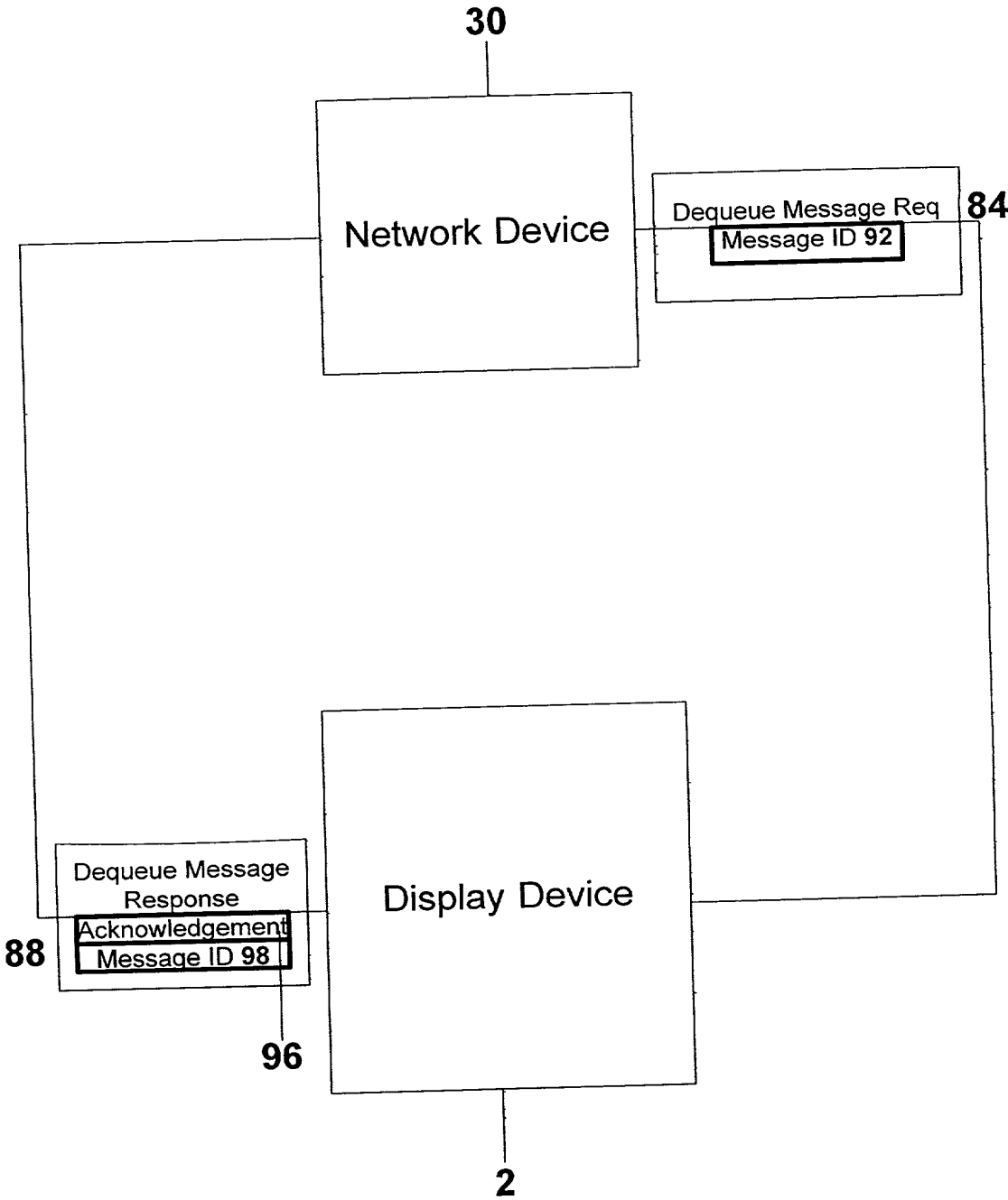


Figure 6B

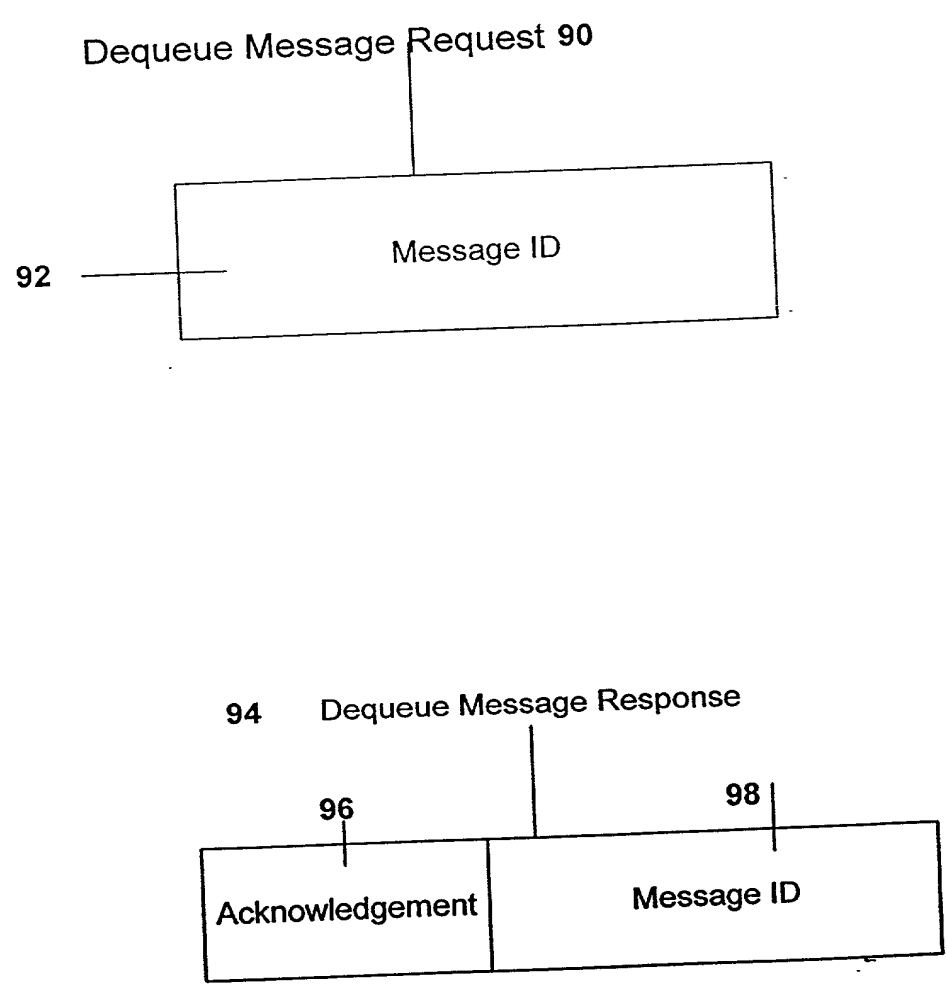


Figure 7A

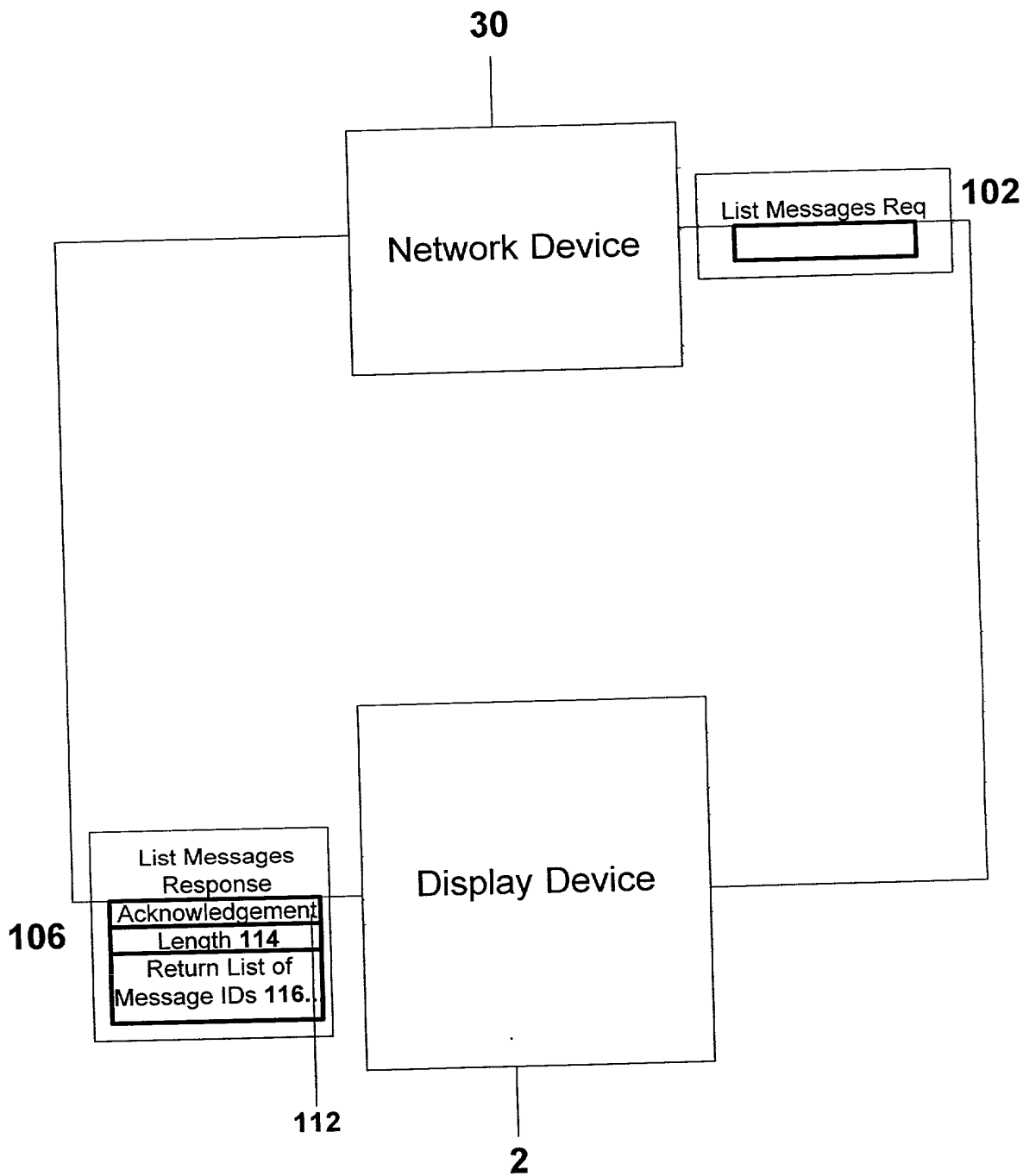


Figure 7B

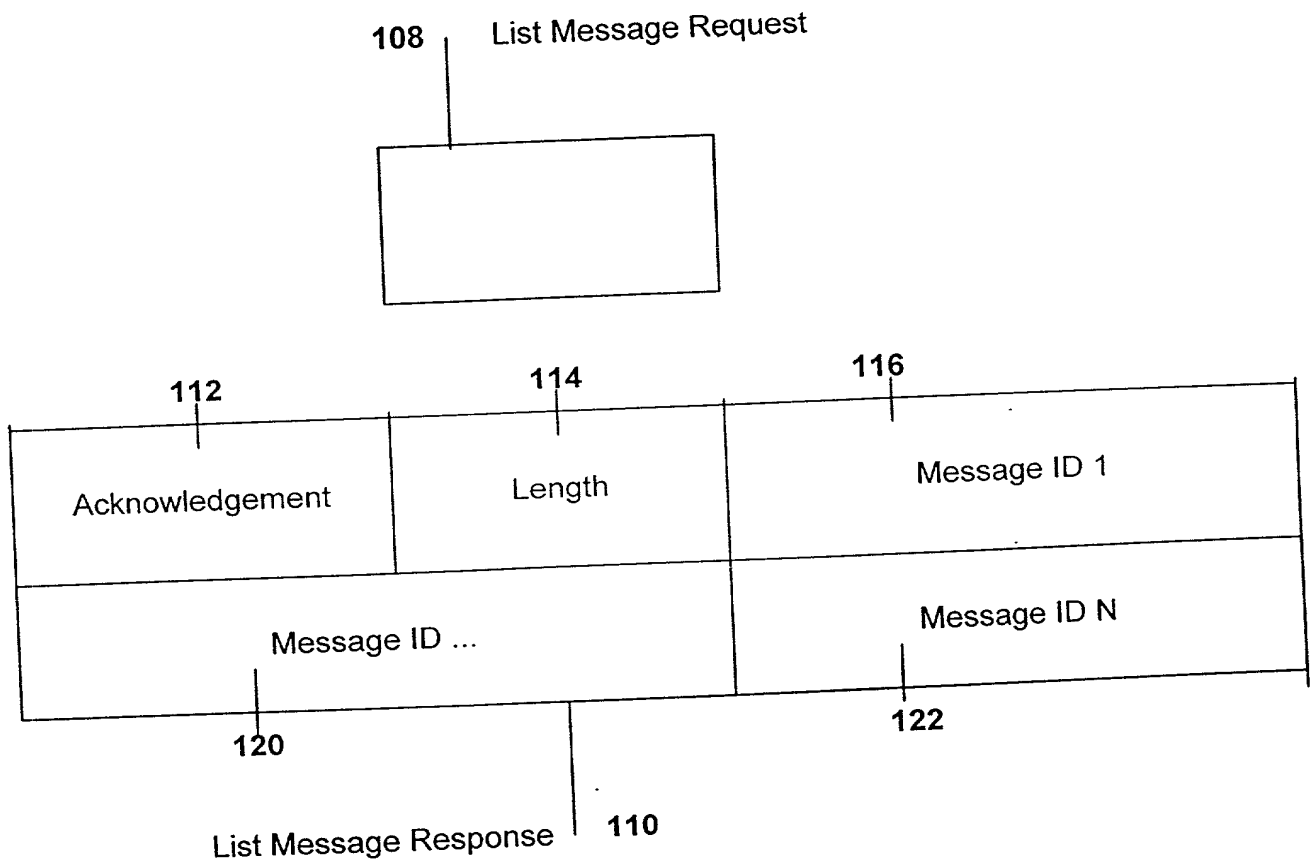


Figure 8A

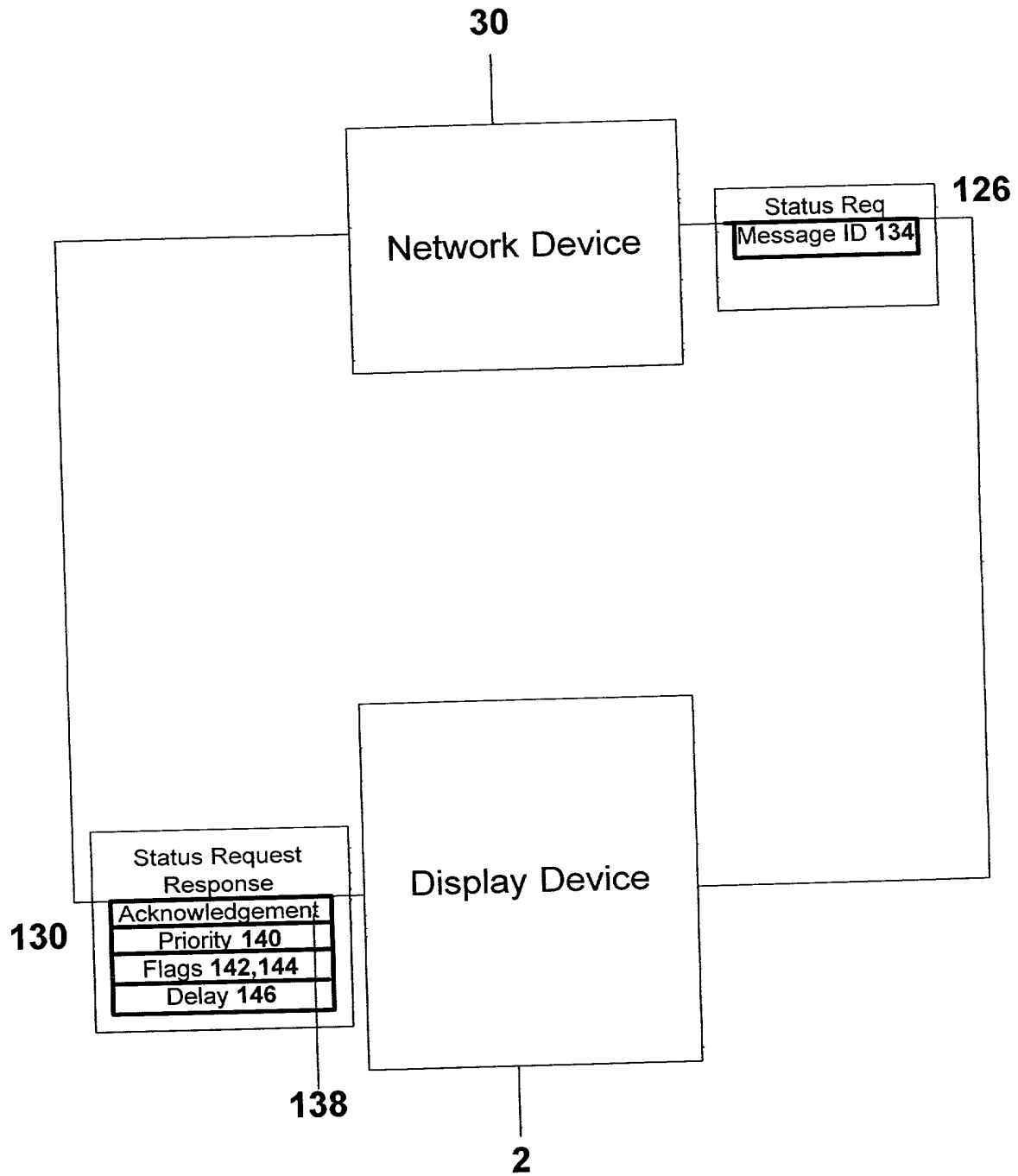


Figure 8B

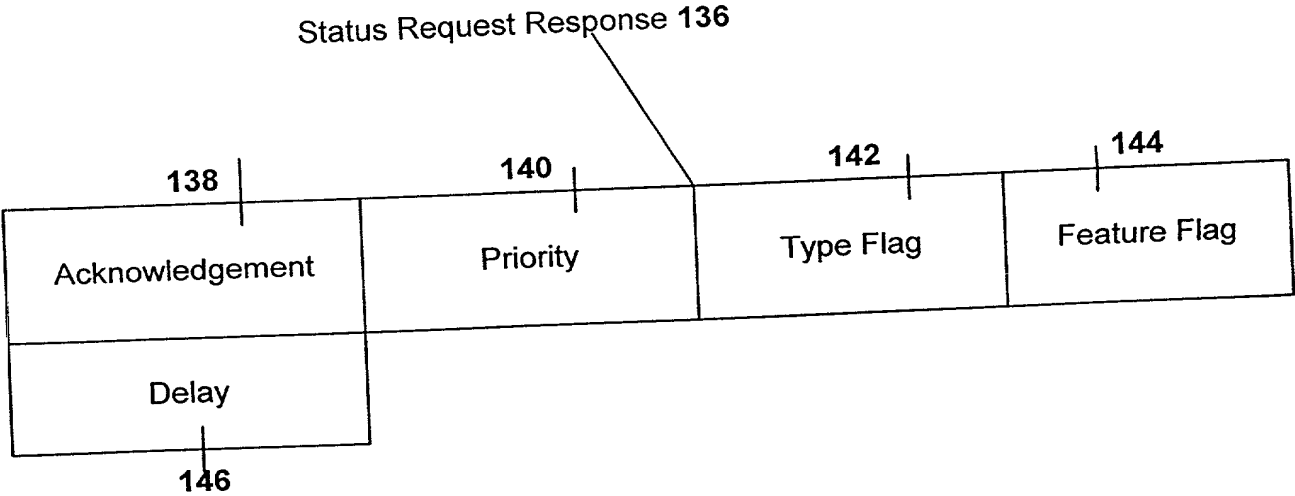
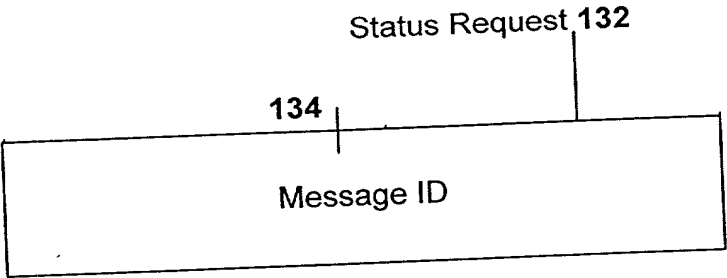


Figure 9A

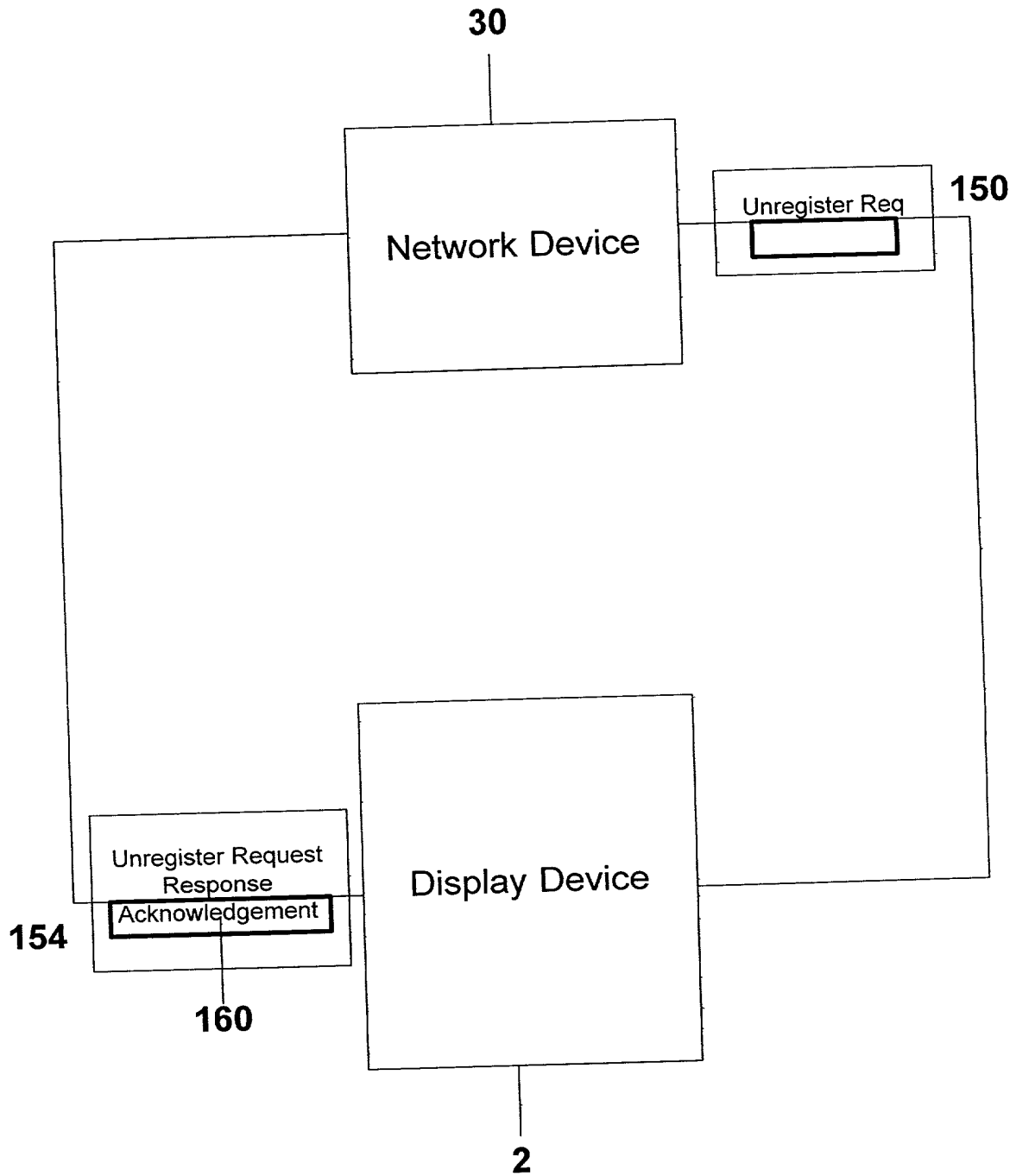
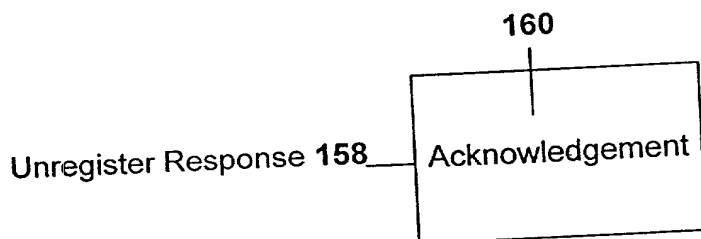
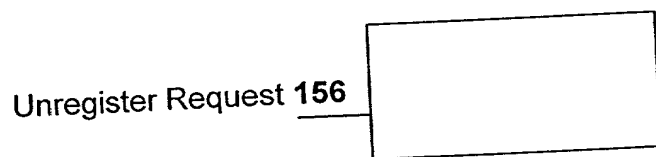


Figure 9B



Customer Number: 000959

Attorney's

Docket

Number SMQ-039

(P5130/RSH)

Declaration, Petition and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A DISPLAY DEVICE
USING A PRIORITY MESSAGING PROTOCOL**

the specification of which

(check one)

X is attached hereto.

__ was filed on _____ as

Application Serial No. _____

and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I do not know and do not believe that the subject matter of this application was known or used by others in the United States or patented or described in a printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or patented or described in a printed publication in any country or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the date of this application, or first patented or caused to be patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate by me or my legal representatives or assigns in a country foreign to the United States prior to the date of this application on an application filed more than twelve months (six months if this application is for a design) before the filing of this application; and I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application, that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on the subject matter of this application has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except those identified below, and that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to herein.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

CLAIM OF BENEFIT OF EARLIER FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below, and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) from which priority is claimed.

Check one:

☒ no such applications have been filed.

☐ such applications have been filed as follows

EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (month,day,year)	Priority Claimed Under 35 USC 119
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)
--------------------------	---------------

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)
--------------------------	---------------

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF EARLIER U.S./PCT APPLICATION(S)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any earlier United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the earlier application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date(s) of the earlier application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application. As to subject matter of this application which is common to my earlier application(s), if any, described below, I do not know and do not believe that the same was known or used by others in the United States or patented or described in a printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or patented or described in a printed publication in any country or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the date(s) of said earlier application(s), or first patented or caused to be patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate by me or my legal representatives or assigns in a country foreign to the United States prior to the date(s) of said earlier application(s) on an application filed more than twelve months (six months if this application is for a design) before the filing of said earlier application(s); and I acknowledge that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on said subject matter has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States except those identified herein.

_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status) (patented,pending,aband.)
-----------------------------------	------------------------	--

_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status) (patented,pending,aband.)
-----------------------------------	------------------------	--

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

James E. Cockfield	Reg. No. 19,162	Nicholas P. Triano III	Reg. No. 36,397
Thomas V. Smurzynski	Reg. No. 24,798	Peter C. Lauro	Reg. No. 32,360
Ralph A. Loren	Reg. No. 29,325	DeAnn F. Smith	Reg. No. 36,683
Giulio A. DeConti, Jr.	Reg. No. 31,503	William D. DeVaul	Reg. No. 42,483
Ann Lamport Hammitte	Reg. No. 34,858	David J. Ridders	Reg. No. 43,882
Elizabeth A. Hanley	Reg. No. 33,505	Chi Suk Kim	Reg. No. 42,728
Amy E. Mandragouras	Reg. No. 36,207	Maria Laccotripe Zacharakis	Limited Recognition
Anthony A. Laurentano	Reg. No. 38,220		Under 37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b)
Jane E. Remillard	Reg. No. 38,872	Debra J. Milasincic	Reg. No. P46,931
Jeremiah Lynch	Reg. No. 17,425	David R. Burns	Reg. No. P46,590
Kevin J. Canning	Reg. No. 35,470	Sean D. Detweiler	Reg. No. 42,482
Jeanne M. DiGiorgio	Reg. No. 41,710	Peter S. Stecher	Reg. No. P47,259
Megan E. Williams	Reg. No. 43,270	Timothy J. Crean	Reg. No. 37,116
Kennth Olsen	Reg. No. 26,493	Joseph T. FitzGerald	Reg. No. 33,881
Robert S. Hauser	Reg. No. 37,847	Christine S. Lam	Reg. No. 37,489
Alexander E. Silverman	Reg. No. 37,940	Sean P. Lewis	Reg. No. 42,798
Anirma Rakshpal Gupta	Reg. No. 38,275	Bernice B. Chen	Reg. No. 42,403
Michael J. Schallop	Reg. No. 44,319	Noreen A. Krall	Reg. No. 39,734
Kenta Suzue	Reg. No. 45,145	Marc Foodman	Reg. No. 34,330
Richard J. Lutton, Jr.	Reg. No. 39,756	Naren Chaganti	Reg. No. 44,602

Send Correspondence to Kevin J. Canning, Esq. at **Customer Number: 000959** whose address is:


Lahive & Cockfield, LLP, 28 State Street, Boston, MA 02109

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

Kevin J. Canning, Esq., (617) 227-7400

Wherefore I petition that letters patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the attached specification and claims, and hereby subscribe my name to said specification and claims and to the foregoing declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor Robert P. St. Pierre	
Inventor's signature 	Date 10/30/00
Residence 1502 Kingsgate Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087	
Citizenship United States	
Post Office Address (if different) Same as Above	
Full name of second inventor, if any	
Inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address (if different)	

00704093-110100